

Serial No. 10/523,627

Office Action dated: 04/10/2006

Response to Office Action dated: 07/10/2006

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated April 10, 2006, in which the Examiner:

indicated claims 10 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form; and

rejected claims 6-9 and 12-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,735,248 to Matsuura et al.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections below. Claims 6-17 are currently pending. Claims 6, 16 and 17 are independent claims. The current Amendment amends claim 16.

Claims 6, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Matsuura. An anticipation rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is improper unless a single prior art reference shows or discloses each and every claim recitation.

Applicant's claim 6 recites a gas fuel supply system for supplying gas fuel to an internal combustion engine wherein the pressure of the gas fuel increases if the negative pressure in the intake pipe decreases, and the pressure of the gas fuel decreases if the negative pressure in the intake pipe increases. Applicant's amended claim 16, also directed to a gas fuel supply, and claim 17, directed to a method for supplying gas fuel to an injector of an internal combustion engine, include similar recitations.

Matsuura does not show or disclose each and every claim 6, 16 or 17 recitation. For example, Matsuura does not show or disclose that the pressure of

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the gas fuel increases if the negative pressure in the intake pipe decreases, and the pressure of the gas fuel decreases if the negative pressure in the intake pipe increases. In fact, Matsuura does not show or disclose anything about how varying pressure downstream of throttle valve 35 affects the pressure of natural gas supplied to the fuel injectors 12.

Particularly, Matsuura does not show or disclose what effect, if any, the unlabelled element in Figure 2 (extending between the secondary pressure regulator 9 and an area adjacent to the throttle valve 35) has on gas fuel pressure. Even if the unlabelled element allows some degree of gaseous communication between the area adjacent to the throttle valve 35 and some portion of the secondary pressure regulator 9 (which is by no means clear from Matsuura's Figure 2), the effects on gas fuel pressure recited by Applicant's claim 1 are still not shown or disclosed.

Thus, Matsuura does not show or disclose each and every recitation of Applicant's claims 6, 16 or 17. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 6, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Matsuura is improper for at least this reason, and should be withdrawn.

Claims 7-9 and 12-15 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Matsuura. These claims all depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 6 and include additional recitations thereto. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 7-9 and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Matsuura is improper for at least the same reasons stated in connection with claim 6, and should be withdrawn.

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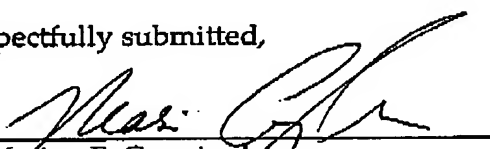
Having traversed each and every claim rejection, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 6-9 and 12-17 be withdrawn, and claims 6-17 be passed to issue.

Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in the current Amendment constitutes new matter. Amendments to claim 16 are clearly supported by at least paragraphs [0054]-[0057] of the Specification.

Applicant believes no fees are due in connection with this Amendment and Response. If any fees are deemed necessary, authorization is hereby granted to charge any such fees to Deposit Account No. 13-0235.

Respectfully submitted,

By


Marina F. Cunningham
Registration No. 38,419
Attorney for Applicant

McCormick, Paulding & Huber LLP
CityPlace II, 185 Asylum Street
Hartford, CT 06103-3402
(860) 549-5290